

Become a School Governor

Help to provide children and young people with the best chance to achieve their full potential



Wakefield Schools need enthusiastic, committed volunteers to become governors and support and challenge school leaders to provide the best possible education for the children and young people in Wakefield.

School Governance is the most important voluntary role in education.

"I became a governor originally because I wanted to give something back to the community and because I have a real interest in furthering young people in society and making sure they've got everything they need for a good and bright future."

Ryan, School Governor, Wakefield



Become a School Governor



Who can be a school governor?

Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor.

No children?

You don't need to have children or be a parent of a child at the school.

Tight for time?

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term (3 terms per year). This includes meetings, background reading and school visits.

Do I have what it takes?

Governing bodies rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No prior knowledge is required.

Why do schools need people like me?

Governors have a vital role. They help set the strategic direction of their school and ensure it delivers on its responsibilities. This requires a group of committed people from many walks of life with a mix of skills and experience.

As part of the team, a governor's role is to:

- get to know the school and gain a good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses;
- be prepared for and contribute actively to discussions at meetings;
- always act in the best interests of all young people;
- attend training to enable them to perform their duties to the best of their ability.

What qualities does a governor need?

Effective governors do not need to be experts in education but they do need to be committed. A key role of governors is holding the management team to account robustly and effectively, for this it is important that governors have a questioning mind and are diplomatic. They also need to be enthusiastic and a good team player. To contribute effectively, all governors need to be literate and numerate.

Governing bodies will also benefit from governors who have strong skills in areas such as data analysis, understanding financial accounts, and dealing with legal matters.

Governors do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development. Ultimately, all governor responsibilities come back to this task and can be split into three core roles:

The role of a school governor

Support & Challenge



Ensure accountability.

Asking the difficult questions and guaranteeing the school is responsible for its actions.

A champion of success.

Using your skills and experience to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.

Providing Strategic Management



Monitor and evaluate progress.

Analysing decisions: are they producing the desired results?

Establish a strategic framework.

Helping to set the school's aims and objectives.

Making Executive Decisions

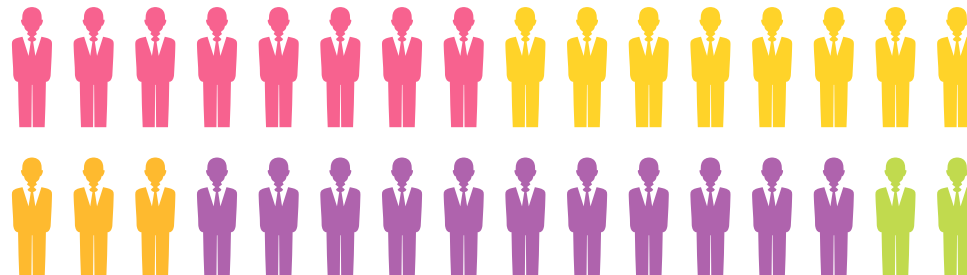


Allocate and control the school budget.

From extra staff training to investing in new buildings or equipment.

Appoint senior staff.

Including the responsibility of appointing a new Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.



Why be a governor?

It's about children, education and schools.
Make a positive impact on the education of
thousands of children and work towards better
schools and a better community.

*“Being a School Governor is
extremely rewarding and knowing
that I’m involved in the most
important volunteering role in
education gives me a great sense
of satisfaction. I have had the
opportunity to learn new skills and
meet new people and I feel that
I’m playing an effective role in
supporting the building blocks of
our future society.”*

*Julie, School Governor,
Sandal, Wakefield*



Schools need you

"Many things can be brought into the role from the outside world. It doesn't just have to be someone from a commercial background, it can be anyone with life experiences; and equally you can learn and develop many skills from working with the school."

*Andy, Parent Governor,
Crigglestone,
Wakefield*



Grow by giving

"I was surprised that through being a governor, I've enhanced the skills I already had and have become more confident. The skills I have learnt as a governor and in my workplace really complement each other and I have seen improvements in my performance at work. It's also great to see the school is moving up from one category to another."

*Ryan, School Governor,
Crofton,
Wakefield*



What are the different types of governor?

Governing bodies have representatives of school staff, the local authority, parents and members of the community. Despite representing different groups, all governors have exactly the same role.

Do I get time off?

School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have the right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your HR department for your company's policy.

How long is the term of office?

Four years. However should your circumstances change, as a volunteer, you can resign at any time.

What about academies?

Academies have a slightly different structure but the role is primarily the same; speak to our Governor Engagement Officer if you would like to find out more.

Is there training available?

Training and support is available for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend a governor induction programme.

Where are the vacancies?

There are vacancies across the Wakefield Authority. When applying you can specify a geographic area or school in which you would like to volunteer. Our Governor Engagement Officer will then work to match you with the right school.

What is the legal position?

Responsibility for actions and decisions lies with the governing body as a whole and not with individual members. The governing body is required by law to be covered by an insurance policy.



Becoming a governor?



The application process

For a parent governor, complete the nomination form provided by the school.

For all other applications, please complete the application form online: www.wakefield.gov.uk/governors. Alternatively, you can request a hard copy by calling us on 01924 306730. When applying, you can specify your preference(s) for the type of school, travelling criteria, etc.

Wakefield School Governor Services works in partnership with schools to match you with the most suitable governor vacancy. A member of our team will always be on hand to answer your questions and help you through the application process.

Once a suitable vacancy becomes available, we will put you in touch with the school. At this point, you may be invited to meet the Headteacher and/or Chair of Governors at the school.

If you and the school are both happy, a place on the governing body will be offered. If you choose to accept the role, your term as a school governor will begin.







“There can never have been a more important time in our country’s recent history to be involved in education, and we need skilled and motivated governors who are committed to transforming our schools.”

*Lord Nash,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Schools*

Become a School Governor



School Governor Services

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